

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



**PA 13-243—sSB 876**

*Education Committee*

*Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee*

**AN ACT CONCERNING AUTHORIZATION OF STATE GRANT  
COMMITMENTS FOR SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS**

**SUMMARY:** This act authorizes \$510.1 million in state grant commitments to 27 local school construction projects. It also reauthorizes and increases grant commitments for (1) six previously authorized local projects whose cost and scope have changed and (2) a previously authorized state technical high school system project.

Furthermore, the act approves various exemptions, waivers, and changes for either new grant authorizations or changes to previous authorizations for an additional state cost of \$250.7 million.

Under the school construction grant program, local districts are reimbursed by the state Department of Construction Services for eligible costs of a construction project. Each district's reimbursement rate is individually determined based on the district's ranking by wealth among all of the state's districts. Poorer districts are reimbursed at a higher rate than wealthier districts. The state sells general obligation bonds to raise the money for the grants.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**§ 1 — SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS**

*New Authorizations*

Table 1 shows the 27 new school projects the act authorizes.

Table 1: New School Construction Projects Authorized

<i>School District</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Estimated Project Costs</i>	<i>Estimated State Grant</i>	<i>State Reimbursement Percentage</i>
CREC	Greater Hartford Acad. of Arts Elementary Magnet	New construction/site purchase	\$49,673,596	\$39,738,877	80%
CREC	Greater Hartford Acad. of Arts Middle Magnet	New construction/site purchase	74,614,104	59,691,283	80%
CREC	Two Rivers Magnet High School	New construction/site purchase	108,308,509	86,646,807	80%

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East Windsor	Broad Brook Elementary	Extension & energy conservation	3,770,000	2,181,322	57.9%
Ellington	Crystal Lake School	Extension & alteration/site purchase/roof replacement	\$18,457,497	\$10,744,109	58.2%
Ellington	Windermere School	Alteration	2,582,503	1,503,275	58.2%
Greenwich	Greenwich High School	Extension & alteration	30,115,000	6,023,000	20%
Hartford	Weaver High School	Alteration/roof replacement/energy conservation	100,000,000	80,000,000	80%
Milford	East Shore Middle School	Extension & alteration	18,950,000	10,422,500	55%
Naugatuck	Naugatuck High School	Extension & alteration/energy conservation	77,967,900	58,475,925	75%
Naugatuck	Central Administration	Extension & alteration	3,032,100	1,137,038	37.5%
Norwalk	Rowayton School	Extension & alteration	7,695,260	2,473,257	32.1%
Norwalk	Naramake Elementary School	Extension & alteration	4,139,284	1,330,366	32.1%
Regional District 16	Region 16 PK-5 Elementary School	New construction	36,609,000	21,310,099	58.2%
Regional District 16	Laurel Ledge School	Extension & alteration/roof replacement	7,746,000	5,283,547	68.2%
Regional District 16	Central Administration	Alteration	2,371,000	808,630	34.1%
Regional District 18	Mile Creek School	Energy conservation	597,900	209,265	35%
Regional District 6	Wamogo Regional H.S. (Vo-Ag)	Equipment	61,740	49,392	80%
Rocky Hill	Rocky Hill High School	Extension & alteration/roof replacement	44,955,000	19,910,570	44.3%
Southington	Joseph A. DePaolo Middle School	Extension & alteration/site purchase/roof replacement	45,000,000	25,231,500	56.1%
Southington	John F. Kennedy Middle School	Extension & alteration/site purchase/roof replacement	45,000,000	25,231,500	56.1%
Stamford	Dolan School	Energy conservation	1,225,019	354,398	28.9%
Stamford	Davenport Ridge School	Energy conservation	1,000,000	528,600	52.9%
Wallingford	Mark T. Sheehan High School	Energy conservation	174,135	87,694	50.4%
Wallingford	Lyman Hall High School	Energy conservation	131,135	66,040	50.4%

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Waterbury	John F. Kennedy High School	Extension & alteration	25,232,000	12,706,835	50.4%
Wethersfield	Wethersfield High School	Extension & alteration/roof replacement	74,816,617	37,939,506	50.7%

### *Reauthorizations*

The act also reauthorizes grants for seven previously authorized projects whose scope or cost have changed substantially (see Table 2).

Table 2: State and Local Projects for Reauthorization

<i>School District</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Previous Grant Authorization</i>	<i>New Grant Authorization</i>	<i>Change in cost</i>
Brooklyn	Brooklyn Middle School	Extension & alteration	\$1,250,690	\$1,519,221	\$268,531
Connecticut Technical High School System	Eli Whitney (Hamden)	Extension & alteration	98,000,000	104,075,000	6,075,000
CREC	International Magnet for Global Citizenship	New construction/site purchase	25,236,090	30,002,425	4,766,335
Eastford	Eastford Elementary School	Energy conservation	90,000	245,563	155,563
Meriden	Francis Maloney High School	Renovation & extension*	82,925,500	82,925,500	0
New Haven	East Rock Global Magnet (new)	New construction	31,428,000	38,499,300	7,071,300
Stratford	Honeyspot House (Stratford Academy)	New construction	7,815,924	8,944,155	1,128,231
*This project reauthorization is solely to change the scope of the project to include purchase of land.					

### SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION NOTWITHSTANDINGS

The act exempts specified school construction projects from various statutory and regulatory requirements to allow them to qualify for state grants. These exemptions are referred to as “notwithstanding” provisions. Table 3 indicates the act section for each and summarizes each exemption and any applicable conditions.

Table 3: School Construction Notwithstandings

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§	School District/ Entity	Project	Exemption/Waiver or Other Change
2	New Haven	Daniels School new construction	Waives repayment of funds by allowing enrollment figure of 600
2	New Haven	Cooperative Arts & Humanities High School new construction	Waives repayment of funds by allowing enrollment figure of 650
2	New Haven	Worthington Hooker alteration, extension & roof replacement	Waives repayment of funds by allowing enrollment figure of 527
3	Berlin	Berlin High School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>extension and alteration project changed to renovation project</li> <li>allows greater square footage for maximum project size</li> <li>allows full rather than half the reimbursement percentage for a natatorium or auditorium</li> <li>permits town to enter into contract for or issue bonds that exceed the town's approved appropriation for the school project, but by no more than \$15 million provided town legislative body approves the additional appropriation by June 30, 2014</li> </ul>
4	West Haven	Engineering and Science University Magnet School new construction	Makes off-site improvement costs not to exceed \$2.5 million reimbursable as eligible costs
5	New Haven	Common Ground High School extension and alteration	Modifies an existing authorization by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>increasing project maximum cost from \$4 million to \$7,450,000,</li> <li>extending the application deadline by one year until June 30, 2014, and</li> <li>requiring the lease terms be approved by the construction services commissioner</li> </ul>
6	Montville	Leonard J. Tyl Middle School change orders	Waives the deadline to submit change orders for reimbursement as long as they are approved by Bureau of School Facilities
7	Montville	Murphy Elementary School change orders	Waives the deadline to submit change orders for reimbursement as long as they are approved by Bureau of School Facilities
8	Montville	Oakdale Elementary School change orders	Waives the deadline to submit change orders for reimbursement as long as they are approved by Bureau of School Facilities
9	East Hartford	East Hartford Middle School alteration	Makes project eligible for state aid provided cost does not exceed \$5,569,750, application is submitted by June 30, 2014, and is otherwise eligible
10	Colchester	William J. Johnston	Requires education and construction

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		Middle School renovation and expansion	services commissioners to give review and approval priority to school renovation and expansion project (i.e., treat as if it were on the 2014 school construction authorization list); waives local funding commitment requirement provided application with local funding commitment is filed by November 30, 2013
11	Vernon	Center Road School alteration and energy conservation	Waives repayment of funds by allowing enrollment figure of 497
12	Vernon	Lake Street School extension, alteration, and roof replacement	Waives repayment of funds by allowing enrollment figure of 306
13	Vernon	Skinner Road School alteration project	Waives repayment of funds by allowing enrollment figure of 375
14	Vernon	Rockville High School extension and alteration, code violation, and energy conservation	Permits town to use 261,967 square feet as maximum project footage with no penalty
15	Wallingford	Lyman Hall High School (Vo-Ag) new construction	Waives deadline for submitting project change orders for reimbursement as long as they are approved by Bureau of School Facilities
16	Clinton	The Morgan School new construction and site acquisition	Makes project eligible for state aid provided cost does not exceed \$64,750,000, application is submitted by June 30, 2014, and is otherwise eligible
17	Region 19	E O Smith High School outdoor athletic facilities	Makes outdoor athletic facilities, including field lighting, eligible for reimbursement in full for the reasonable costs of the project not to exceed \$250,000, provided the town submits a completed application by June 30, 2014
18	West Haven	West Haven High School renovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• waives the two-year deadline to begin construction after legislative approval</li> <li>• waives the requirement that renovation project be comparable to a new facility by allowing exclusion of ice rink, natatorium, and outdoor athletic facilities from the renovation</li> </ul>
19	Enfield	Enfield High School extension, alteration, and roof replacement	Makes project eligible for state aid provided cost does not exceed \$103,316,775, application is submitted by June 30, 2014, and is otherwise eligible
20	North Branford	North Branford High School roof replacement	Waives requirement for public invitation to bid and that bid and specifications be approved and properly sealed before being sent out to bid, provided specifications are

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			later approved by Department of Construction Services
21	North Branford	North Branford Intermediate School extension and alteration	Waives space standards for the purpose of state reimbursement for extension and alteration
22	Eastford	Eastford Elementary School energy conservation	Permits bid prior to plan approval, provided specifications are approved by Department of Construction Services
23	Granby	Kelly Lane School extension and alteration and roof replacement	Waives repayment of funds by allowing enrollment figure of 445
24	Orange	Turkey Hill School alteration	Makes project eligible for state aid provided cost does not exceed \$1,839,889, application is submitted by June 30, 2014, and is otherwise eligible
25	Orange	Peck Place School alteration	Makes project eligible for state aid provided cost does not exceed \$1,034,000, application is submitted by June 30, 2014, and is otherwise eligible
26	Orange	Race Brook School alteration	Makes project eligible for state aid provided cost does not exceed \$2,560,152, application is submitted by June 30, 2014, and is otherwise eligible
27	Orange	Mary L. Tracy School alteration	Makes project eligible for state aid provided cost does not exceed \$306,750, application is submitted by June 30, 2014, and is otherwise eligible
28	New London	C.B. Jennings new construction	Waives deadline for submitting project change orders for reimbursement provided they are approved by Bureau of School Facilities
29	Norwich	Kelly Middle School extension and alteration	Permits town to use 133,034 square feet as maximum project footage with no penalty
30	Goodwin College	Pathways to Technology Magnet High School new construction	Makes site acquisition costs eligible for reimbursement as part of new construction project
30	Goodwin College	Pathways Academy of Design and Technology	Makes architectural design costs eligible for reimbursement provided it does not exceed previously authorized amounts
30	Goodwin College	New construction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pathways Academy of Design and Technology</li> <li>• CT River Academy</li> <li>• Early Childhood Magnet</li> </ul>	Reduces the existing authorization for Pathways Academy by \$3 million and increases the previously authorized grants for Connecticut River Academy and Early Childhood Magnet School by \$1.5 million each

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		School	
31	West Hartford	Hall High School alterations	Makes alterations to locker rooms and restrooms eligible for reimbursement in full for the reasonable costs of the project not to exceed \$375,000, provided the town submits a completed application by June 30, 2014
32	West Hartford	Conard High School alterations	Makes alterations to locker rooms and restrooms eligible for reimbursement in full for the reasonable costs of the project not to exceed \$375,000, provided the town submits a completed application by June 30, 2014
33	Waterbury	Reed School new construction/site purchase	Allows unexpended funds, including funds for site acquisition, to be used for site remediation provided it does not exceed the authorized project cost
34	New Haven	Helene Grant School new construction	Makes project eligible for state aid provided cost does not exceed \$41,600,000, application is submitted by June 30, 2014, and is otherwise eligible
35	New Haven	Central Administration Offices new construction	Makes project eligible for state aid provided cost does not exceed \$1,400,000, application is submitted by June 30, 2014, and is otherwise eligible
36	New Haven	New Haven Academy alteration	Makes project eligible for state aid provided cost does not exceed \$40,000,000, application is submitted by June 30, 2014, and is otherwise eligible
37	Fairfield	Osborn Hill Elementary code violation	Waives requirement for public invitation to bid and that bid and specifications be approved and properly sealed before being sent out to bid, provided specifications are later approved by Department of Construction Services
38	CREC	10 magnet school new construction projects	Allows reasonable costs of (1) short-term or temporary financing and (2) prorated salary and benefits of staff assigned to project management, subject to audit and only for time before certificate of occupancy, to be eligible for reimbursement
39	CREC	Medical Professions and Teacher Preparation Academy new construction	Waives the requirement that scope of project be determined at time of application to allow additional grades and expand curriculum
40	Hartford	Kinsella Magnet facility purchase, extension and alteration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Makes project eligible for state aid provided cost does not exceed \$30,000,000, application is submitted by June 30, 2014, and is otherwise eligible</li> <li>Allows project to receive 95%</li> </ul>

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			reimbursement rate rather than 80%
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